

presidential campaign of Vladimir Putin, was lost to unidentified computer "hackers"; and a journalist for "Novaya Gazeta" was savagely beaten in May of this year;

Whereas President Thomas Dine of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on March 14th, 2000, condemned the Russian Government's expanding efforts to intimidate the mass media, stating that those actions threaten the chances for democracy and rule of law in Russia;

Whereas "NTV", the only national independent television station, which reaches half of Russia and is credited with professional and balanced news programs, has frequently broadcast news stories critical of Russian Government policies;

Whereas on May 11, 2000, masked officers of the Russian Federal Security Service carrying assault weapons raided the offices of "Media-Most", the corporate owner of NTV and other independent media;

Whereas the May 11th raid on Media-Most represented a failure of recourse to normal legal mechanisms and conveyed the appearance of a politically-motivated attack on Russian independent media;

Whereas the raid on Media-Most was carried out under the authority of President Putin and Russian Government ministers who have not criticized or repudiated that action;

Whereas on June 12, 2000, Vladimir Gusinsky, owner of NTV and other leading independent media was suddenly arrested;

Whereas President Putin claimed not to have known of the planned arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky;

Whereas the continued functioning of an independent media is a vital attribute of Russian democracy and an important obstacle to the return of authoritarian or totalitarian dictatorship in Russia; and

Whereas a free news media can exist only in an environment that is free of state control of the news media, that is free of any form of state censorship or official coercion of any kind, and that is protected and guaranteed by the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) expresses its continuing, strong support for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation;

(2) expresses its strong concern over the failure of the government of the Russian Federation to privatize major segments of the Russian media, thus retaining the ability of Russian officials to manipulate the media for political or corrupt ends;

(3) expresses its strong concern over the pattern of Russian officials' surveillance and physical, economic, legal, and political intimidation of Russian citizens and of the Russian media that has now become apparent in Russia;

(4) expresses its strong concern over the pattern of manipulation of the Russian media by Russian Government officials for political and possibly corrupt purposes that has now become apparent;

(5) expresses profound regret and dismay at the detention and continued prosecution of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Andrei Babitsky and condemns those breaches of Russian legal procedure and of Russian Government commitments to the rights of Russian citizens that have reportedly occurred in his detention and prosecution;

(6) expresses strong concern over the breaches of Russian legal procedure that have reportedly occurred in the course of the

May 11th raid by the Russian Federal Security Service on Media-Most and the June 12th arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky;

(7) calls on the President of the United States to express to the President of the Russian Federation his strong concern for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation and to emphasize the concern of the United States that official pressures against the independent media and the political manipulation of the state-owned media in Russia are incompatible with democratic norms; and

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with the request that it be forwarded to the President of the Russian Federation.

CITIZENS DESERVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT 527 CAMPAIGN ATTACK ADS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to join many of my Democratic colleagues in signing a discharge petition to bring legislation to the floor of the House of Representatives to require full disclosure of so-called 527 ads—the political attack ads that are becoming a disturbing way of life in politics today. These ads are the latest scheme to get around campaign finance laws. The undermine our democracy.

I speak from experience about 527's. As a freshman Member of Congress, I have had these anonymous attack ads running in my central New Jersey district—both against me and against the loser of the primary election in my district.

527 ads are the political equivalent of a drive-by shooting. They are deceptive—they are anonymous—and they keep citizens in the dark about who is trying to influence their elections.

Citizens deserve the right to know who is contributing money to elections. Full disclosure allows citizens to make more informed judgments about issues and elections.

I urge my colleagues to join me in signing the discharge petition.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY MAYOR MATHEW WITECKI FROM LITTLE FALLS, NEW JERSEY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention to the life of a man I am proud to call my friend, Mathew Witecki of Little Falls, New Jersey, who passed from this Earth on Sunday, May 29, 2000. It is only fitting that Mayor Witecki be honored, for he has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others. Due to his leadership and dedicated service, I am honored to submit

these words to be immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

Fifteen years ago, Mathew Witecki made his political debut by wearing a gas mask and pushing a baby carriage during a protest to stop the construction of a landfill on part of the Montclair State University Campus. Mathew, the former mayor and deputy mayor of Little Falls, joined the picket line and helped fight plans to dump garbage from New York on a site near the border of Montclair and the township where he lived for 43 years.

Since his political debut, Mayor Witecki, 76, a retired engineer, served on the Little Falls Township Council and was an active member of numerous community organizations until he died on this past Sunday. Mathew was the son of Polish immigrants who grew up during the depression. He is remembered as a man who never wasted time or resources. Mathew was a graduate of Newark College of Engineering and retired in 1986 as a senior engineer for Bendix Corp. after 45 years of service. He then worked as a consultant for Allied Signal. Known for his honest approach to life, Mathew took a firm stand on community issues. Most recently, he was the founder and chairman of STOP, an organization created to block plans to run a natural gas pipeline underneath 33 North Jersey communities, including Little Falls and the 20 other towns in my Congressional District in New Jersey. I was proud to work along side of Mathew during these months fighting the pipeline. Even though we were from opposite sides of the aisle, Mathew never let politics get in the way of a cause in which he believed. We worked together in a bipartisan way to accomplish a goal on an issue we both were passionate about. He was a tireless advocate of the families in the area. Along with his help, we fought the battle against the pipeline, and I pledge to continue to fight in his honor.

Mathew Witecki was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 3835, the past president of the Passaic County Historical Society, trustee of the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund and treasurer of Passaic County Vision 20/20 Inc. He was also a member of the Little Falls Planning Board, former chairman and trustee of Passaic County Solid Waste Authority and a member of the Little Falls Garden Club.

The father of four, grandfather of 11, and great-grandfather of two, mayor Mathew Witecki is survived by his wife, the former Helen T. Stolarz; two sons, Mathew and John; two daughters, Patricia Murphy and Marybeth Witecki.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me, the family of Mayor Mathew Witecki, the residents of Little Falls and Passaic County, his friends and co-workers in honoring the life of a great man.

RECOGNIZING 225TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, The United States Army was established by the

First Continental Congress on the 14th day of June, 1775; and

Whereas, The United States Army exists to defend the freedom of our citizens and our nation's security interests; and

Whereas, Many citizens of the Ohio Valley have served their nation and given the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms; and

Whereas, The United States Army is to be commended for 225 years of dedicated service; and

Therefore, I join with all residents of Ohio in recognizing the United States Army as it celebrates its 225th Birthday this June 14, 2000.

Furthermore, I declare the period from June 12 through June 18, 2000, as United States Army Week.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 15, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 20

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings on the overview of Federal service programs.

SD-430

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues dealing with the Philippines.

SD-419

JUNE 21

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on certain Indian Trust Corporation activities.

SH-216

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine security failures at Los Alamos National Laboratory; to be followed by a closed hearing (SR-222).

Room to be announced
Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the proposed United-US Airways merger, focusing on its effect on competition in the industry, and the likelihood it would trigger further industry consolidation.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Judiciary
To hold hearings on improving the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

SD-226

Environment and Public Works
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1787, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve water quality on abandoned or inactive mined land.

SD-406

11 a.m.

Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To resume oversight hearings to examine the 1996 campaign finance investigations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1848, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the Denver Water Reuse project; S. 1761, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conserve and enhance the water supplies of the Lower Rio Grande Valley; S. 2301, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the Lakehaven water reclamation project for the reclamation and reuse of water; S. 2400, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District; S. 2499, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Pennsylvania; and S. 2594, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with the Mancos Water Conservancy District to use the Mancos Project facilities for impounding, storage, diverting, and carriage of nonproject water

for the purpose of irrigation, domestic, municipal, industrial, and any other beneficial purposes.

SD-366

JUNE 22

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine issues dealing with aviation and the internet, focusing on purchasing airline tickets through the internet, and whether or not this benefits the consumer.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine medical device reuse.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1643, to authorize the addition of certain parcels to the Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa; and S. 2547, to provide for the establishment of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Great Sand Dunes National Preserve in the State of Colorado.

SD-366

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings on S. 1016, to provide collective bargaining for rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the April 2000 GAO report entitled "Nuclear Waste Cleanup—DOE's Paducah Plan Faces Uncertainties and Excludes Costly Cleanup Activities".

SD-366

JUNE 28

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 2283, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to make certain amendments with respect to Indian tribes.

SR-485

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Judiciary
Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee
To hold hearings on countering the changing threat of international terrorism.

SD-226